As I said to Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, when constitutional changes are being considered, your suggestions too will be examined.

181. Administrative reforms.

MR. S. JANARDANAN NAYAR (*Nedumangad taluk*) said that the Travancore State occupied a unique position in India in the matter of civilisation and educational advancement. Among the Indian States, Travancore occupied the 7th place in area, the 3rd place in population and the 1st place in point of literacy. It was high time that responsible government was established in the State, especially in view of the possibility of immediate grant of *swaraj* to British India and a Federation for the whole of the Indian Empire, in order to enable her to join the Federation.

The existing Legislative Council and the Assembly should be immediately reformed and remodelled. Both the institutions required thorough overhauling. The practice of nominating members to the Council and the Assembly should be abolished. The franchise should be broadened. A few seats should be reserved to be filled in by nomination from among the minority communities. Both the institutions should have elected Presidents. The Council and the Assembly should have power to elect two members each from among the elected members, as ministers, who should be made responsible to the bodies electing them. The period of the Council and of the Assembly should be 3 years or 5 years, the election for both the bodies being conducted simultaneously. The Assembly should be placed on a statutory basis. It should be invested with additional powers and privileges, such as asking interpellations, passing resolutions, discussing and passing the annual budget and the election of ministers. The constitution of an Executive Council was unnecessary as it would involve much additional expenditure, thereby increasing the burden of the tax-payer. The elected ministers should have no pay. They should be given only an honorarium of Rs. 5,000 each per annum.

The public service required immediate and thorough remodelling. The number and pay of the high-paid officers should be considerably reduced. The pay of the subordinate service should be enhanced. The maximum salary of an officer should be fixed at Rs. 500 per mensem and the minimum pay of an officer of the subordinate service at Rs. 15 per mensem. The pay of the teachers of vernacular schools, of the copyists and peons in courts and offices, of the Police constables and of the Excise, and Anchal peons and of Forest Guards, was miserably low and was responsible for corruption, discontent, poverty and insubordination among them. Their pay should therefore be enhanced. The number of high officers was large and their pay high. The axe of retrenchment should be applied both for reducing the number and pay of these officers. There was no use in reducing the number of low-paid subordinates. The pay of the Dewan could be reduced to Rs. 1,500. An immediate reduction of 20 per cent. of the salary should be made in the case of officers drawing a pay of Rs. 100

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and above. The posts of the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, the Assistant Excise and Devaswom Commissioners, the Assistant Superintendents of Police and many of the Assistant Inspectors of Schools, the Executive and Assistant Engineers, the Division Assistants, the Professors and Tutors of the Colleges and the Experts of the Agricultural and Industrial Departments could be abolished.

The effect of unemployment and poverty was keenly felt in the State. Education was costly. It was literary in character. The system of education should be thoroughly changed and vocational education should be introduced so as to instil a desire for taking to industry, agriculture and commerce in the minds of the young children. The cost of education should also be substantially reduced by reducing the number of text-books and note books. Spinning and weaving should be introduced and made compulsory in all the educational institutions. Manufacture and spread of *khadar* should be encouraged. Local industries should be protected and encouraged. Factories should be established for the manufacture of buttons, matches, biscuits, soaps, candles, mantles, tiles, paper, tyres and tubes. Salt factories should be allowed to be opened and the manufacture of salt allowed free. Tobacco cultivation should be encouraged. Importation of tobacco and salt should be completely stopped. Tapping for arrack and toddy should be discontinued and the drink evil abolished. The manufacture of jaggery out of toddy should be encouraged. Trade and commerce in the State should be developed and trade agents appointed in important trading centres in Europe and America to find out suitable markets for the indigenous products of the State. Better attention should be bestowed on the development of agriculture. Every cent of land fit for cultivation in the State should be given on registry and the registry-holders compelled to cultivate their holdings within 5 years after registry. Additional amounts should be set apart for grant of agricultural loans to *bona fide* agriculturists at a low rate of interest allowing a longer period for the repayment of the loans. Branches of the Land Mortgage Bank should be opened in all the taluks. Sufficient funds should be earmarked for distribution among the co-operative societies.

"Travancore for Travancoreans" should be the motto of the Government. All the posts in public service should be reserved for Travancoreans. The culture, enlightenment and the educational advancement of both men and women in the State as well as the brilliant success of Travancoreans in all branches of administration outside Travancore justified the demand of the people in the matter. Communal representation in public service was dangerous, unwholesome and demoralising. All communities should be given equal opportunities for education and the fact of one's birth, caste, colour or religion should not be a hindrance for entry into the public service.

The member next urged the need for allowing Second Grade Pleaders and District Court Pleaders of standing to practise in the District and High Courts. If necessary, pleaders who wished to

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be enrolled in the District Courts and the High Court might be selected after a competitive examination. Second Grade Pleaders should also be appointed as Police and Excise Inspectors, Prosecuting Inspectors, Range Officers, Sub-Registrars, Second Class Magistrates and Munsiffs. The existing system of recruitment of officers to these posts was not at all statisfactory.

The system of indirect taxation was ruinous to the people. The system of tolls and market collections was detrimental to the agricultural, commercial and industrial progress of the State and should be abolished.

The existing system of affording medical relief was not satisfactory. A large number of medical officers were unnecessarily retained at the capital and some important towns. More hospitals and dispensaries should be established in rural areas so that there might be at least one dispensary for every 5 square miles and one hospital for every 25 square miles.

Under trial prisoners as well as those convicted for short terms, were being fed at the cost of the people. This system was unsatisfactory. The prisoners should be compelled to engage themselves in industries like hand-spinning and weaving or in manual labour inside the jail premises.

The practice of inflicting capital punishment should be abolished. It was a crude and barbarous method of administering justice. It was undesirable to make any invidious distinction in the matter of administration of criminal justice. The Criminal Procedure Code should be suitably amended so as to remove the existing distinction between European and Indian offenders.

The proposed resettlement should not be conducted in the near future.

The member lastly urged the necessity for establishing a university for Travancore. The State occupied the front rank in the matter of educational advancement in the Indian Empire. There were a large number of high schools and sufficient number of colleges. The starting of a separate university for Travancore should not be delayed any further. The best site for locating it was the capital of the State. The university buildings could be located either at the beach or at Tirumali.

DEWAN'S REPLY: You have made a large number of suggestions, Mr. Janardanan Nayar; and I cannot comment on all of them. All I can say is that they will be considered as occasion arises.

182. Administrative reforms.

MR. NAMBAN PILLAI KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanapuram taluk*) first spoke about the necessity for adopting immediate measures for the uplift of the depressed classes. There were provisions for the registry of *puduval* lands on concessional terms to the members of the depressed classes. But there was no arrangement to see how far he members of the depressed classes were actually benefited by such

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